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1992/01/29

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ID# 303373

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

C003402

DATE RECEIVED: JANUARY 30, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONCRABLE EDWARD M. KENNEDY

SUBJECT: URGES PRESIDENT TO REJECT MEETING WITH
CHINESE PREMIER LI PENG IN NEW YORK ON
JAN 31 92 BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN CHINA AND TIBET

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
FREDERICK MCCLURE		ORG	92/01/30	Fm A		92/01/30
NSC SITI	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	92/02/07			
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	I	92/02/06			
SC Supe	REFERRAL NOTE:	I	92/02/07			
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COMMENTS: ADDITIONAL COPY OF INCOMING REC'D TO INCLUDE
AN ADDITIONAL SIGNATURE (SENATOR BROWN)*Letter sent to all signers*ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 21 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 1220
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*OF SIGNER	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*CODE = A	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *		*OUTGOING	*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 29, 1992

The Honorable George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is our understanding that Chinese Premier Li Peng has requested a meeting with you on January 31st, while members of the United Nations Security Council are convening in New York. We are deeply concerned by the prospect of your meeting with the architect of the Tiananmen Square massacre, and urge you to reject Mr. Li's request.

It would be inconsistent with U.S. policy for such a meeting to take place while the harsh post-Tiananmen crackdown ordered by Mr. Li continues unabated, and thousands of pro-democracy activists remain imprisoned. A meeting with the Chinese premier would help to restore the international image and credibility of the Chinese regime at a time when such restoration is clearly unwarranted, and would dishonor the memory of the students and workers who died in June, 1989. In addition, meeting with Mr. Li at this time would undermine the strong human rights message delivered by Secretary of State James Baker when he visited Beijing last November.

The Government of China must demonstrate significant, concrete progress toward respecting fundamental, internationally recognized human rights before normal relations between our countries can be fully restored. We urge you to use diplomatic contacts with Beijing to make this clear to China's leaders. In addition, we call upon your Administration to raise the issue of China's relentless political repression before the United Nations Human Rights Commission, which is now convening in Geneva.

Among the most urgent human rights concerns in China, we believe the Administration should place the highest priority on urging the Beijing government to take the following steps:

-- Release all Chinese citizens detained after June 4, 1989 for the peaceful expression of their political views, including those sentenced to prison terms. In particular, we urge you to reiterate the concern of Congress and the Administration for prominent dissidents such as Wang Juntao, who was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment in February, 1991. In light of Mr. Wang's serious health problems, the Administration should publicly and privately call for his immediate release on medical parole.

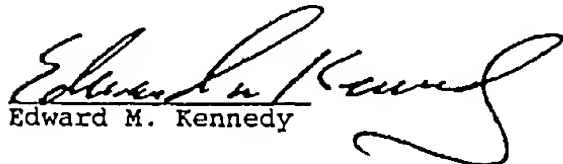
-- End the persecution of individuals wishing to pursue religious beliefs. According to human rights groups, Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists and members of other religious groups are being subjected to the toughest crackdown on religion in decades. The Beijing government has increased restrictions on freedom of expression, and harassed, intimidated, and detained individuals seeking to worship. The Administration should call for the release of Bishop Peter Liu Guandong, Bishop Yang Libo, Father Pei Ronggui, Sha Zhumei, Zhang Weiming, and other imprisoned clerics and lay church members.

-- Terminate the brutal repression in Tibet. Chinese security forces continue to violate the political and civil rights of Tibetans by implementing policies designed to destroy Tibetan culture and silencing peaceful dissidents through arrests, torture, and harsh prison terms. The U.N. Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities raised the issue of human rights in Tibet last August. The Administration should encourage follow-up action at the Commission meeting in Geneva.

-- Stop the flow of prison-made products to the U.S. and agree to allow U.S. and international inspection of prison factories, labor camps, and reeducation camps suspected of engaging in the production of prisoner-made goods for export. Although this has been a subject of intense congressional and public concern for months, the Chinese have yet to undertake the kind of effective measures required to end this abhorrent practice.

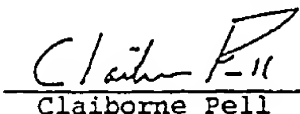
We look forward to your response with respect to these recommendations and your decision regarding Mr. Li's request for a meeting.. Any direct high level contact by you or members of your Administration with Mr. Li at this time would send a devastating signal to the long-suffering people of China and Tibet, and could also affect upcoming congressional deliberations regarding China's Most Favored Nation trading status.

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy


George J. Mitchell


Alfonse M. D'Amato

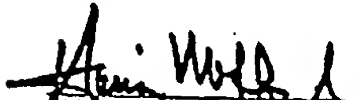

Claiborne Pell


Alan Cranston


Mark O. Hatfield

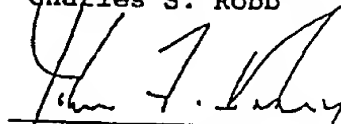

Joseph I. Lieberman


Wendell H. Ford

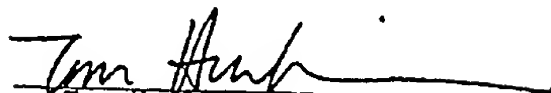

Harris Wofford

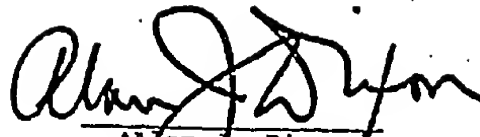

Dennis DeConcini

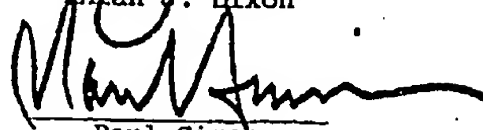

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